

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Governor’s Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

January 14th, 2010
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sabino Canyon Visitor’s Center
5700 N. Sabino Canyon Rd
Tucson, AZ 85750

Minutes

Meeting Objective: To receive an update by State Forestry and task group members on the current status of the statewide assessment, to discuss the Four Forests Restoration Initiative progress and to learn more about the work taking place in the Sky Islands and surrounding landscape.

1) Call to Order ~ 9:12a.m

Ethan A., Don B., Brenda B., Bruce Greco for Wally C., Vicki C., Rob D., Steve G., Larry Stephenson for Mark H., Tom K., Molly P., Steve R., Todd S., Rob S., Don F.

Acknowledgements of thanks were given to all those that agreed to present at the meeting on this day as well as Brenda B. for coordinating and Sabino Canyon for hosting.

2) Approval of Minutes from the November FHC meeting ~ Approved

Two minor changes requested by council; changes were made and posted to website

3) State Forestry Division~ Steve Gatewood and Glen Buettner

Assessment Project Status

- Meetings continue to take place regularly --delivery is slightly off schedule
- Strategic Planning
 - ✓Main Issue- put out to council for input—How to Classify Landscapes? - what does FHC think?
- SG: Can we modify these to build a classification for the statewide land assessment?
- VC: Go beyond just forested land but ‘Arizona’ as a whole. Redefining it as all our natural resources | adjusting to include all.
- Draft document will be provided in February for FHC review on assessment & landscape issue.
- Survey has been set-up for online feedback at:
Website: www.azsf.az.gov/forest_strategy.asp

- Purpose of survey is to give feedback on ‘6’ critical issues identified w/descriptions. Survey is scheduled to be open through January 15th, 2010 for feedback.
- Forest Service created State liaison position that will work on task force
- ERI hired new person also on task force
- State Land Dept.- Steve Williams joined team
- Gap in Representation: Still with Tribal component
- Tribal Workshop planned for February 18th in Pinetop-targeted at Tribal entities for input.
- Finalized NASF-Small Grant
 - ♦ Hope to contract with a writer for final stretch of project with this grant money.
- VC noted that these statewide plans are getting a lot of visibility at congressional level- they are not buried and this is a ‘big deal’. Arizona is fortunate too that they have a Statewide strategy to draw from
- SG: May want to identify work group at FHC February meeting to next step- the assessment to strategic plan phase--Draft in February > Final in March

State Forestry General

- Solar Cabinet is being created
- VC is part of and will make sure Biomass is part of conversation

4) Update regarding the Four Forests Restoration Initiative ~ FFRI Participants

- FHC taking a more passive role – ensuring that the FFRI is consistent w/Statewide Strategy—mostly tracking at this time
- There are many FHC members involved in this initiative
- A consensus has been reached on Path Forward document
- Close to having a charter—identifying how FFRI is structured and what its relationship is to the US Forest Service
- Contracting
Planning- likely to include NEPA
FFRI Act proposal process moving forward
Draft; late January/February
Early March Forward to USFS
- LS: voiced concern this is becoming a Flagstaff project and not a broad one. Also perceived as just “another project”.
- Other challenge/issues noted at regional office- perceived regional directors have more of a traditional view
- Issue of large tree retention –using language that intent is to ‘retain’ except where community protection zones are in play.
- EA: Working on getting Fire & Landscape paper document printed- Add to agenda for February- how do you want to distribute? Think of general outreach strategy- who, public etc... also integration of this document.

5) **Welcome to the Coronado National Forest, Santa Catalina Ranger District** ~ Stan Helin, District Ranger

- An Interesting Setting for Fire Management - 3 Key Words
 - ✓ Ready: *get process in order*
 - ✓ Aim: *is it fire use ready*
 - ✓ Fire: *collaboration w/stakeholders*

6) **Firescape Overview** ~ Brooke Gebow, SE AZ Preserves Manager, TNC / Firescape Program Manager

- Informative Power Point presented on Five Key Projects

7) **Break**

8) **Science of Firescape** ~ Don Falk, UA School of Natural Resources

- Science of resiliency “soil carbon”
- How do we return Sky Island eco-systems to a resilient condition in the face of emerging challenges?
- Goals of Firescape Science:
 - 1.) Provide technical support- service role
 - 2.) Advance the science of ecosystem management
 - 3.) Convert land type association to map of FS fuel Models (SNR)
 - 4.) Analyze departure of fire return intervals (CTRR/CASA/SNR)
 - 5.) Quantify & map carbon sequestration at the landscape scale (SNR)
 - 6.) Understand fire behavior in the Catalina Rincon Complex
- Science informs treatments
- Lidar provides unparalleled view of forest structure over entire landscapes
- A website will be up by the 3rd week in January to engage people to encourage trust and provide knowledge
- A detailed presentation was given on Buffelgrass and the issues it is currently presenting and the greater potential for problems if not addressed.

9) **State Forestry** – Local Work and Projects

- Presentation on local work and projects being done around the communities, examples, challenges and success stories sited.

10) **Bullock/Aspen Fire Aftermath and Pinaleno Ecosystem Restoration Project** ~ Craig Wilcox, Coronado National Forest Silviculturist

- Discussion on issues surrounding Mt. Graham Red Squirrel and the decline of their numbers due to loss of habitat due by fire and insects and the challenges in protecting the Mexican Spotted Owl habitat.

11) Discussion and Wrap-up.

- Need to come up with a plan of transferring lessons learned on these site visits to actionable items to implement and update Statewide Strategy to keep current.

12) Meeting Schedule and Locations~

- February 11th, 2010 – County Supervisors Association Building (Phoenix)

13) Call to Public~ No comment

14) Meeting Adjourned~ 1:20p.m.

15) Field Trip~1:30-3:00p.m.- Walking trip up Sabino Canyon with District Ranger Stan Helin

Dated this January 29, 2010
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>

CO-CHAIRS

Ethan Aumack – Grand Canyon Trust

Molly Pitts – Northern Arizona Wood Products Association